See p 2 Harrelson "Comp"

COVERUPS!

Number 2 | Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher | September, 1982

RAMSEY PANEL MEMBERS RESPOND TO AGC CHARGES

by Gary Mack

As a result of my article in the last issue, two members of the Ramsey Panel have addressed what promises to be one of the most crucial issues in the new acoustics study. While both deny my charge that there was no AGC circuitry in the Dallas Police radio system, they candidly admit that, if true, it would significantly change their analysis.

As always, my presentations on this subject will be kept to layman's terms. After reading this, if you're unsure of my conclusions or don't fully understand them, take both articles to *any* competent engineer with experience in two-way communications. You'll find them working for your city, in schools, and commercial radio and television stations.

Here is what the Ramsey Panel decided after analyzing a third or fourth generation copy of Channel 1, the recording with the gunshots: An open microphone on Channel 1 somewhere in Dallas was within a few feet of a second radio that was playing back (loudly) the broadcasts on Channel 2. What was said on Channel 2 was indisputably more than one minute after the assassination. Yet those same words were picked up by the open mic and, therefore, recorded also on Channel 1. The words on Channel 1, though, appear as the last two "shots" were fired. That's impossible; therefore, the "shots" weren't shots at all, just bursts of static about one minute after the real shooting.

Here's how the Ramsey Panel determined the Channel 2 words were picked up by the open mic and *not* dubbed in during later copying: The words start to faintly appear just ½ second before the 3rd shot. Then a different officer tries to use his radio—that results in a very loud "beep tone" on Channel 1. The police radio *receiver*, recognizing that the incoming sound is now too loud, reduces it in its automatic gain control circuit. Once the beep ends (a fraction of a second later), the AGC restores the sound to its original volume.

The reduction took place in about .04 seconds, while the restoration took approximately .15 seconds. In the Panel's opinion, this is proof that the crosstalk came through the radio system and not by later overdubbing with a second recorder.

My response, simply, was that there was no AGC circuitry in the receivers used by the Dallas Police at that time; therefore, *any* AGC action of the kind noted by the Panel could only have come from dubbing. Since the crosstalk must have been added to the recording at a later date, it could not be used to disprove the original acoustic study by Dr. Barger.

Researcher Paul Hoch, who once took some physics courses from Panel member Luis Alvarez, sent him a copy of Coverups! Alvarez quickly responded in a manner which told me exactly how the Panel goofed.

In my efforts to keep the acoustics evidence simple, I left out one relevant piece of information: the Dallas Police system was low-band FM. Dr. Barger, the Dallas engineers and I all knew that FM systems, in these applications, have no need for any AGC circuitry *for the audio*. All FM receivers, of course, have AGC for the carrier. Let me explain. Think of a radio signal, or carrier, as a suitcase and the contents are the audio sounds. In FM, AGC boosts or reduces the carrier, but the audio remains unaffected; so, in other words, you put 10 pounds of clothes in any size suitcase and you'll always have 10 pounds. But AM radio is different: boosting the carrier also raises the audio. You guessed it! Put 10 pounds of clothes in a suitcase, double it's size and you get 20 pounds of clothes. In other words, an assumption was made by the Panel that the DPD receiver had the characteristics of an AM receiver when, in fact, it did not.

Alvarez asked Paul to send his response to me, and that's when I knew what had gone wrong with the Ramsey Panel. In a subsequent telephone conversation with Alvarez I was fully convinced. The Panel members who studied the AGC, Alvarez and Dick Garwin, had not stopped to consider whether the Dallas Police radio system *could* produce the noted effects. It could not! Alvarez correctly observed that audio AGC is common in many FM systems, but it's absence in the Dallas system was, he felt, quite surprising. At this point, Alvarez deferred to Garwin, whom he said was more of an expert in this area. He added that if Garwin changed his mind, he would too.

Garwin's reaction, in a phone conversation several days later, was much the same with only one exception: he felt the carrier AGC could, in some systems, affect the audio as well.

Both scientists, in the absence of concrete proof of the lack of audio AGC circuitry, are sticking to their original conclusions; however, both men, especially Garwin, are very much interested in seeing the circuit diagrams for the Dallas receivers. As this is written, one of the City of Dallas engineers is searching through the files; he says chances are good they still have the manuals (even though the equipment is long gone). One of the other Dallas engineers now works for Motorola and he thinks company files might contain a manual. He's not anxious to waste time looking for it, though, because he knows beyond any doubt that Motorola's Sensicon Series receivers did not have any audio AGC. He ought to know, for he's the engineer who hand-picked every piece of equipment for the system, which was designed with no need for AGC.

Meanwhile, Dr. Barger's response, which will go directly to Stokes and Chief Counsel Blakey, is just about finished. He is fully aware of these developments and is in complete agreement that there was no audio AGC in the receiver.

The next Coverups! will detail how, by misrepresenting the events after the assassination and the route to Parkland, the Ramsey Panel blew its analysis of the siren sounds. Those who believe the Ramsey Report must also accept the "fact" that the limousine speed on Stemmons was under 40mph!

DMN 8-28-82

Watergate burglar drops libel lawsuit over book

Associated Press

MIAMI — Convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt dropped a $2.5 million libel suit against two New York authors and their publisher right before the case was to go to trial.

Jury selection was scheduled to begin Friday in the suit that charged that Hunt was libeled in the book *Coup d'Etat in America: The CIA and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy.*

Ellis Rubin, Hunt's attorney, said the suit was dropped Thursday for financial reasons.

The suit was filed in 1976 against authors Alan Weberman and Michael Canfield and the Third Press-Joseph Okpaku Publishing Co. of New York City and book editor Maria Garcia Feliciano.

The book said Hunt and the CIA were responsible for the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Rubin said in his complaint.

Both authors and the publisher agreed with Hunt's decision to discontinue the suit, attorney Bruce E. Stahl said from his New York office.

Hunt was one of several men convicted in the June 1972 burglary of the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington.

He served a 33-month sentence, mostly in the minimum-security prison at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle.

FWST 5-1-82

Judge approves Harrelson lawyer

A U.S. magistrate in San Antonio on Friday granted Charles Harrelson's request that a Brownsville lawyer be appointed to defend him against charges he killed a federal judge.

But U.S. Magistrate Robert O'Connor refused Friday to lower the $1.1 million bond set on Elizabeth Chagra, also charged in the slaying of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr.

O'Connor said he based his refusal on the fact Mrs. Chagra had accompanied her husband, Jimmy, when he was a fugitive for six months in 1979 and 1980 from sentencing on a drug smuggling conviction.

The Chagras, Chagra's brother, Joe, and Harrelson were indicted April 15 on charges they conspired to murder Wood. Jimmy Chagra is accused of paying Harrelson a $250,000 fee to shoot Wood on the morning of May 29, 1979, in San Antonio.

(Percy Foreman was James Earl Ray's defense attorney, too - see page 7 for more on Charles Harrelson)

O'Connor appointed Thomas Sharpe, who helped famed Houston defense attorney Percy Foremen defend Harrelson in 1973 when Harrelson was convicted of killing a Hearne grain dealer in 1968 for $2,000, to represent Harrelson in the Wood case.

Harrelson, who served five years of a 15-year prison term for the 1968 hired killing, had asked for and received a delay in his arraignment on charges he murdered Wood until he had a lawyer "I have a rapport with and can trust."

The four other defendants in the Wood case — including Harrelson's wife, Jo Ann, charged with obstruction of justice — pleaded not guilty during their arraignment before O'Connor on Wednesday.

(OBIT) DMN 8-27-82

PIERCE, Laurens, 66, of Atlanta, retired CBS cameraman who covered the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

FWST 8-27-82

King death site is spared temporarily from auction

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— The motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was killed was spared the auction block when a judge gave a citizens' group 60 more days to raise money to turn the site into a memorial to the civil rights leader.

"I think we'll do it," said D'Army Bailey, a co-founder of the fund-raising effort to save the Lorraine Motel.

It was the second reprieve U.S. Bankruptcy Judge William B. Leffler has given the Martin Luther King Memphis Memorial Foundation.

The first, granted four months ago, expired Thursday, and businessman Harry Sauer pressed the court to allow mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

The King foundation has agreed to pay $240,000 for the motel but raised only $60,000 by the court deadline.

DMN 1-28-82

JAMES EARL RAY, assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has lost his bid to collect damages for an attack by black militants in a prison law library last June in which he was stabbed 22 times. Ray, serving a 99-year sentence, charged state corrections officials with negligence and malice in a 3-page petition filed with the Tennessee Board of Claims. The board said there was no indication that prison guards were negligent in supervising prisoners who stabbed Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison June 4. After the assault, Ray was moved from Brushy Mountain to the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville. Last Saturday, while Ray's wife was visiting him, a black prisoner wielding an upright ashtray assaulted them in a prison visiting room. They were not seriously injured.

FWST 1-25-82

■ **Ray** James Earl Ray and his wife were injured slightly when another Tennessee State Prison inmate, 25-year-old Gary Wallace, attacked them in a prison visiting area, prison officials said. Warden Jim Rose said the attack was "just a fluke," and was not racially motivated. The attack on Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., occurred in the prison's maximum-security visiting area.

DMN 9-27-82

Hearing to begin in James Earl Ray stabbing

WARTBURG, Tenn. — Pretrial motions are scheduled for Monday in the case of three black inmates accused of stabbing James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Defense lawyer Isaiah Gant has said he would seek a change of venue since Brushy Mountain Penitentiary inmates can't get a fair trial in Morgan County because "nearly everybody . . . either works for the prison system or is in business related to the prison."

ANALYSIS OF COUCH, WEIGMAN FILMS SUPPORTS ACOUSTICS EVIDENCE by Gary Mack

In September 1978, right after Dr. Barger's startling testimony there probably was a grassy knoll gunshot, HSCA Chief Counsel Blakey asked photo consultants Dick Sprague and Robert Groden to search for any photographic evidence of the suspected motorcycle. Groden offered the Hughes film and, eventually, a segment from the DCA film, but Sprague found something quite different: two motion pictures in which a motorcycle did *not* appear. Sprague, whose assassination and photo research has been generally excellent, believed that if the acoustics evidence was correct, then the motorcycle had to be visible. Since it was not, Barger's work was wrong.

When we first met in January 1979, Sprague admitted his analysis could be in error because he did not have copies of the films, just selected frames. Later, I was able to view complete, unedited copies of the Malcolm Couch and Dave Weigman films. As Sprague had observed, no motorcycle was readily visible. However, certain events and timings of the films have led me to this new evaluation.

Malcolm Couch was a part-time photographer for Dallas ABC affiliate WFAA-TV. He was riding in the ninth car of the motorcade, a convetible, and filmed H.B. McLain only a few feet to his left. If a clear print of the Couch film can be located, frame blowups should reveal to which channel his radio was tuned (this segment was shot shortly before the turn onto Main Street, which is just prior to the open-mic sequence). Later, in Dealey Plaza, Couch started filming after the last shot.

In the Spring of 1979 I was given permission to view the original WFAA videotapes. One of them included the very first broadcast of the *unedited* Couch film (according to the newsman narrating this silent footage). His car was approaching the turn onto Elm and his camera was pointed directly at the TSBD doorway (this sequence is missing from every other version I've ever seen). Then, in a slow pan to his left, a motorcycle is seen parked near the stop light on the NW corner of Elm & Houston. Couch then continued panning to the left until he was looking straight down Elm toward the Underpass. This all happens within 5 seconds, and McLain is not visible in the south lane.

This scene, which was thought to be only a few seconds after the shooting, actually occurred too late for McLain. The evidence is in the Warren Commission volumes and Channel 2 of the Dallas Police tapes.

The parked motorcycle, of course, was Officer M.L.Baker's. In a timed reconstruction for the Commission it was learned that it took 15 seconds from the last shot for Baker to arrive at the front door of the TSBD (VIIH593). In his testimony, Baker said the time was a minimum because several factors were *not* taken into account (IIIH242-270). He pulled up near the stop light, looked around at the people running and falling down, and then, as he dismounted, heard Chief Curry on Channel 2 order his men into the railroad yards. Baker then ran to the TSBD, pushing people out of the way, and went inside.

In Couch's film, the opening frames show Baker was already inside, the door had closed, and the people had reconverged. There is no way to learn exactly how long after Baker got inside that Couch started filming, but a minimum time can be established. The Curry order came 11 seconds after his first radio command to go to Parkland; since an unknown period of time elapsed between the last shot and Curry's first order (estimates range from 20-40 seconds), Baker could not have gotten off his bike until *at least* 30 seconds after the last shot; that, plus 10 seconds, puts him inside the TSBD 40 seconds after the assassination. Even if Curry got on the radio quicker than anyone imagined, perhaps in 10 seconds, Baker still would have taken about 30 seconds (10 + 11 + 9) to get inside the building because the Couch film clearly shows the doorway, his bike and the area in between. Baker was already gone.

Just two seconds after Baker's motorcycle became visible, Couch aimed his camera down Elm to the Underpass. According to the BBN acoustics McLain had already accelerated, so he must have been in the Underpass and out of sight. Therefore, the Couch film *supports* the acoustic evidence because McLain does *not* show up. If he did, the film would prove he was too far back to have been the open-mic motorcycle.

Sprague correctly placed far more significance on the Dave Weigman film. Weigman, an NBC photographer, was riding in a convertible two cars ahead of Couch. At the beginning, both films are nearly identical: Weigman started filming with his camera pointing at the TSBD door; he then jumped from his car, ran a few steps in front of it, then took off toward the pergola. The last scene shows the Hesters—she's down on the grass and he gets up and runs inside the pergola. This whole sequence, from TSBD doorway to the Hesters, lasts 27 seconds and was shot nonstop—a rare clock of events. Weigman apparently didn't have the camera to his eye—most frames are blurred and the camera was obviously swinging from side to side as he ran.

During research for the unreleased Taft International documentary, I saw several edited versions of this film, but the print I now have is complete in this first sequence. Careful study of the clear frames and comparison with known events yields a fairly accurate time reference (see time line on next page).

At 16½ seconds after the first frame the film shows Marilyn Sitzman's legs swinging across the side of the pedestal. Since she and Zapruder are known to have gotten down immediately after filming, this point must correspond *at the very latest* to a second or two after the last Zapruder frame. Because this is a photocopy of a multi-generation print, much detail in the shadows has disappeared. Zapruder was dressed in a dark suit and hat, so against the background of dark trees, he's invisible.

Twelve frames earlier, blurred movement on top of the pedestal probably shows Sitzman starting to get down; this is totally consistent with her position, sitting with her legs over the side, just ½ second later. Therefore, Zapruder probably stopped filming about 15 seconds after Weigman started.

By counting Zapruder frames after the head shot and dividing by 18.3 frames/second, we know Zapruder continued filming for 9½ seconds after the head shot at frame 313. Therefore, the head shot coincides in time to about 5 seconds after the beginning of Weigman's film.

Frame B, on the following page, is the crucial one. It appears just 10¾ seconds after Weigman's first frame and *less than* 6 seconds after the head shot. The car in the background is clearly LBJ's Secret Service followup car and the officer standing in the south lane is Hargis. The timing, which matches every known event in the first seconds after the assassination, is crucial to the acoustics evidence.

According to BBN the open mic, at the time of the knoll shot, was in the south lane of Elm at a point 27 feet east of the west side of the TSBD and 97 feet south. That position is represented on the map by a small dot just below the second pair of road stripes in the shaded area. The computed speed of the motorcycle at that time was 10.6 mph, and it continued at that rate for about 25 seconds. Therefore, in 6 seconds, McLain could have moved no more than 93 feet down Elm from his original position. If Frame B is only 5 seconds after the head shot, he would have traveled just 78 feet; and if the time was just 4 seconds, the distance is 62 feet (10.6 mph is 15.5 feet per second).

Quite simply, there's a huge area of Elm Street not visible in the Weigman film, so McLain had plenty of room to be where the HSCA scientists predicted yet still not be seen.

But is he really not visible? I believe he is visible because Frame B shows a dark object at the extreme left edge which could very well be the front tire of his motorcycle. A spectator could not have been responsible because they all stayed on the grass. Nor could a camera defect explain the object since every frame would have to have the same defect.

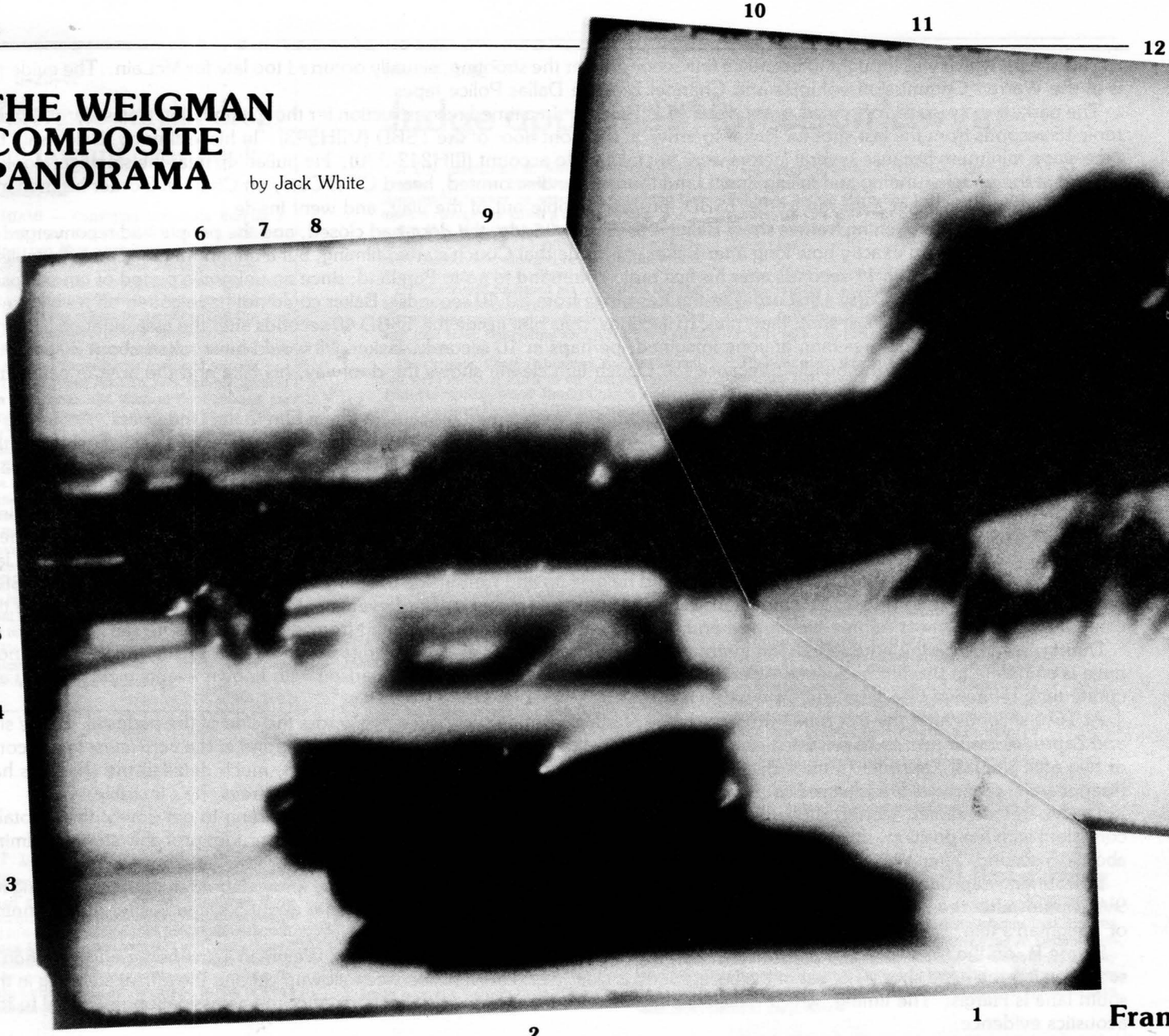
There is only one other frame looking that far south and it, too, shows the object but in a slightly different position. This second frame, just .7 seconds later, is fairly blurred; however, McLain would have traveled 11 feet and that's entirely consistent with what appears. All other frames show a more northern view from Weigman's position.

On the map are two lines pointing to McLain's name. The one farthest down Elm represents his position 5¾ seconds after the knoll shot; the other is just 5 seconds after the shot. Since the timing of the Weigman film in relation to the Zapruder film cannot be precise, those marks represent the last possible frames for McLain to have been in the correct position. The south lane of Elm was twelve feet wide and, even at 5¾ seconds after the knoll shot, he still could have been about two feet from the curb and at the left edge of the picture.

The original Weigman film, which the HSCA located at NBC News in Burbank, may have additional picture area between the sprocket holes; if so, the object in Frame B will be fully visible. Also, Dillard 3, which was taken from the Elm-Houston intersection looking toward the Underpass (VIH165), may have been shot soon enough to show McLain. To my knowledge, no researcher has ever seen it (Dillard got very angry when I called him about the photo—he still has the negative but is very tired of people asking him about the assassination).

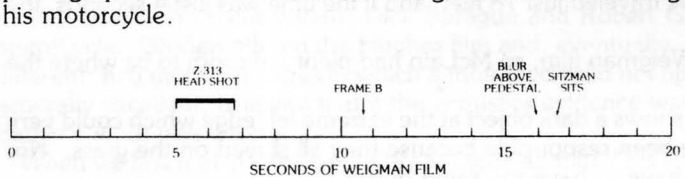
THE WEIGMAN COMPOSITE PANORAMA

by Jack White

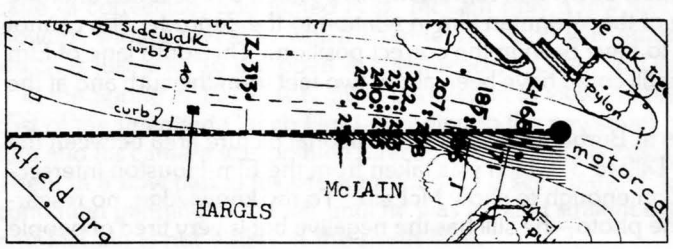


Frame B

At the extreme left of the camera swing he gets a clear frame, above, picking up the closed dignitaries car just ahead of his photographer's car. Note Officer Hargis at left dismounting from his motorcycle.

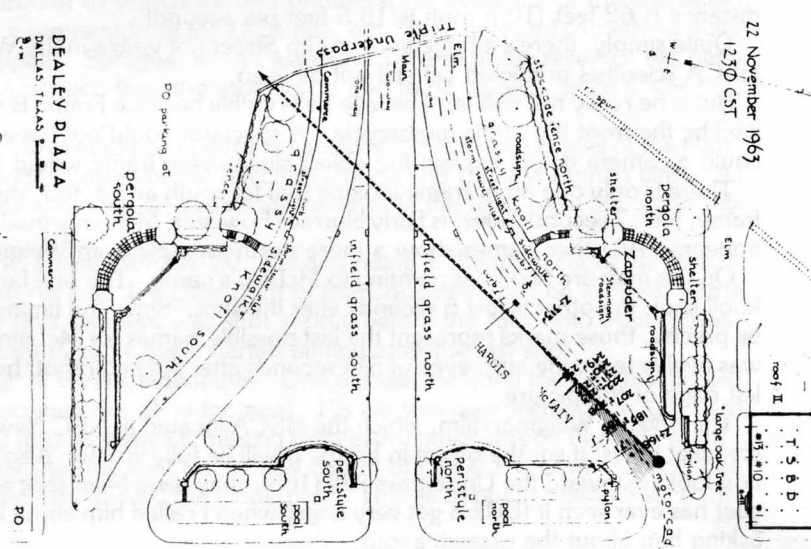


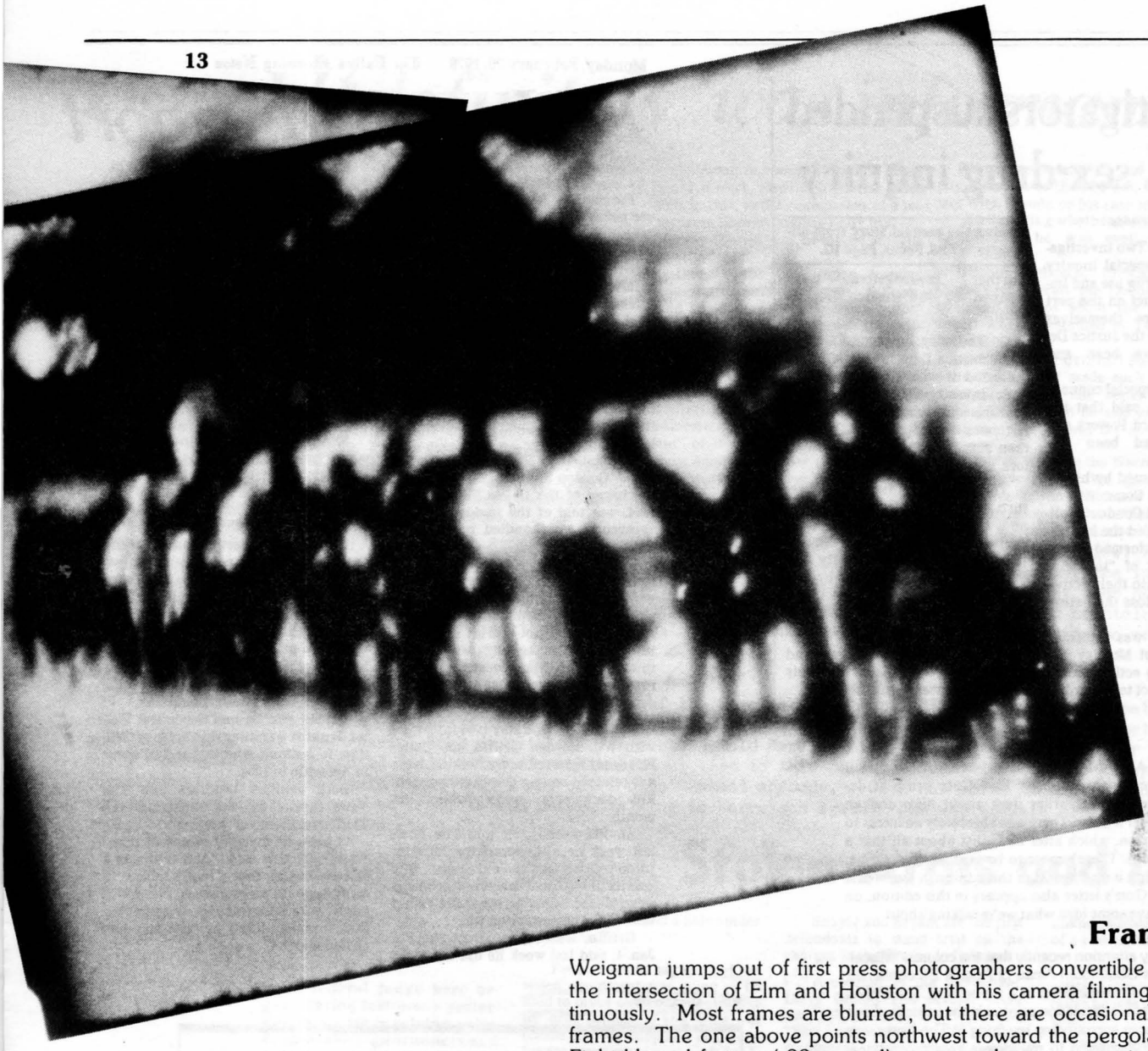
GARY MACK'S ANALYSIS of Weigman film shows Weigman location (black dot) and southern-most limit of his camera view (dotted line and arrow); thus, motorcycle could be anywhere beside or **ahead of** Weigman in the shaded area.



Fram

Six frames later there is another c
us to put together a composite pa
of view than any single frame; all
the same spot, and since the sequ
composite represents a time span





Frame A

Weigman jumps out of first press photographers convertible near the intersection of Elm and Houston with his camera filming continuously. Most frames are blurred, but there are occasional clear frames. The one above points northwest toward the pergola. Eight blurred frames (.33-second) occur as the camera swings wildly to his left (southwest).

C

frame (center) which allows
ama covering a wider angle
ee frames are from virtually
ce covers only 14 frames, the
58-second.

KEY TO NUMBERS AT EDGE OF PICTURE:

1. Northmost of second pair of roadstripes, just at edge of shadow of rear fender.

2. Closed hardtop dignitaries car containing Merriman Smith, others.

3. Shadow of tree from south curb (see Altgens photo for location).

4. Object in street (between curb and camera) entering edge of frame. Subsequent blurred frame 17 frames later (.7-second) indicates it is most likely a motorcycle in south lane near curb; this is very close to the position for the open microphone predicted by the acoustics analysis.

5. Jean Hill, Mary Moorman, "Babushka Lady".

6. Officer Hargis parking motorcycle near south lane roadstripe. Immediately beyond Hargis is the walkway (two dark bumps) of the triple underpass at the extreme south of Commerce.

7. Officer Martin, seen immediately to the right of Hargis, is about 20 feet further west. In the Daniel film, Martin is the only officer seen coming west on Elm.

8. LBJ Secret Service followup car (hardtop). Unseen between this car and the car in the foreground in this frame is the dignitaries car (convertible) with Mayor Cabell.

9. Visible over the top of the foreground car are two white blips which are the helmets of Officers Jackson and Chaney, who flanked the right-hand side of the president's car. Thus the four lead officers are all seen here, meaning any other motorcycles are out of view to the left and rear of Weigman.

10. Lamp post near Newmans.

11. Newmans.

12. Stemmons sign should appear in this vicinity, but dark sign against dark trees make it "invisible" on multi-generation film we copied.

13. Location of Zapruder and Sitzman on pedestal; they are likewise "invisible" against dark trees.

DMN 9-26-82

2 investigators suspended in D.C. sex-drug inquiry

New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Two investigators working on a special inquiry into allegations of drug use and improper sexual conduct on the part of congressmen are themselves being scrutinized by the Justice Department and have been suspended.

The committee's special counsel, Joseph Califano Jr., said that the investigators, Richard Powers and John Moriarty, had been suspended indefinitely.

In a statement issued by his office with the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, Califano said he suspended the investigators after being informed by the Justice Department of "inquiries being conducted" into their activities. He did not disclose the nature of the inquiries.

Califano said he was informed of the inquiries last Monday but had agreed that "no action should be taken" in order not to jeopardize

Tracing the scandal story from silhouette to CBS. Focus, Page 1G.

"further investigative steps planned by the Justice Department."

On Thursday, however, Califano said: "Justice Department officials indicated it would not jeopardize their investigation if the special counsel took whatever action he felt was appropriate." Califano then suspended the two investigators.

The special counsel did not return repeated calls to his office, and Justice Department officials declined to disclose the nature of the charges against Moriarty and Powers. Both were hired by the House committee last July 1 and were transferred to Califano's staff July 30.

Efforts to reach Powers and Moriarty for comment on their suspensions were unsuccessful.

(Moriarty did investigative work for the HSCA in Dallas)

AN APOLOGY AND MORE — Last week, former *Dallas Morning News* investigative reporter **Earl Golz** wrote us demanding a retraction of an earlier item about him, and an apology, too. Consider it done. There was absolutely no intent to harm Golz's reputation, which after all is just about all that a reporter is armed with. There's more to be said on this subject, though, and you'll find it on Page 22 of this edition in the Media column. A copy of Golz's letter also appears in this edition, on Page 23, so you'll have some idea what we're talking about . . . .

To the editor:

It was called to my attention recently that the column "Miscellanea" in *The Dallas Downtown News* of August 2-8 contained some references to my termination as a reporter at *The Dallas Morning News*. Certain speculation printed in the column about possible circumstances surrounding my firing at The News was erroneous and very damaging to my career as a professional journalist.

The fact that I was a victim of an unwarranted termination for writing an article that subsequently has been proven correct has done needless and very grievous harm to my reputation. The Miscellenea column, however, expanded on the fabrications in stating "maybe it (reason for the firing) was an accumulation of gripes over several example (sic) of Golz's investigative work, including a piece on North Texas State University which resulted in a lawsuit against The News that the newspaper lost." This statement is absolutely untrue. Not one word was uttered about my other work at The News as a reason for my termination.

I was asked to resign solely because of what managing editor Ralph Langer construed as an "indefensible problem" for him arising from the initial adverse reaction to the July 9 article from Don Earney, chairman of the Abilene National Bank who has subsequently been forced to resign. Unfortunately for Mr. Langer, the worm has turned with disclosure that the Abilene bank was insolvent well before July 9 as a result of what might charitably be described as poor management.

Furthermore, you had better be prepared to document your sources for the phrase "an accumulation of gripes over several example of Golz's investigative work." On the contrary, I have received many honors for investigative reporting. They include the John Hancock award for financial and business reporting, the most prestigious national award The News has won during the 13 years I worked there. The NTSU judgment in state court is on appeal and is almost certain to be overturned without even remanding it for retrial. It is the only one of more than a half dozen libel actions filed against me, and all others have been dismissed without a dime paid in settlement.

I demand a redress of the wrongs cited above and I demand that such printed comments be contained in the Miscellanea column.

Yours truly,
Earl Golz

Dallas Downtown News 8-30-82

Monday, February 20, 1978 The Dallas Morning News

FBI probed report

By EARL GOLZ

Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover personally ordered his top aides to "expedite" an interview in May 1964 with a Dallas FBI agent who was reported to have said that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was "definitely an FBI informant" and that files of the bureau in Washington "would prove this fact."

A Hoover assistant, C.D. DeLoach, got the informant report from Walter Jenkins, special assistant to President Lyndon Johnson, according to memos filed with FBI documents declassified last month.

Neither the Warren Commission nor J. Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office in 1964, was told of the incident, which apparently was handled by Hoover's top aides.

The FBI has acknowledged its agents had contact with Oswald or his wife about four times before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 but did not recruit him as an informant. The agency said it was interested in him because he had returned to this country in 1962 after defecting to Russia in 1959.

RESULTS OF the May 1964 interview with Will Hayden Griffin, the Dallas FBI agent referred to by Jenkins, were not released among the 40,000 pages of FBI documents made public last month.

An FBI spokesman told The News last week he understood the incident "didn't amount to anything" and results of Griffin's interview probably were placed in his personal file rather than in the assassination file.

Griffin, who retired from the FBI Jan. 1, said last week he did not make the statement as reported by Jenkins and said he is "convinced and always have been that he (Oswald) never was an informant for the FBI."

Griffin's name was blacked out in the two memos released last month but he confirmed he was the former New Orleans agent Jenkins referred to who was transferred to Dallas about 1960.

"He (Oswald) wasn't an informant because I knew the boys who worked with him and tried to work with him," Griffin said.

SHANKLIN SAID Griffin in 1963-64 was "handling applicant investigations" for clerical and other employment in the Dallas FBI office and was not involved in domestic intelligence work.

During the investigation after the assassination Griffin interviewed two of Oswald's co-workers in the Texas School Book Depository Building and also Oswald's landlady at the time of the assassination.

Before his retirement he was assisting in checking clearance for possible investigators and researchers for the House Assassinations Committee.

Griffin said he had never met Walter Jenkins but knew his brother, William R. Jenkins, who was an FBI agent in Amarillo in 1964.

Both Jenkins brothers told The News they could not remember the Griffin incident.

"I have no memory of any of that," Walter Jenkins said. "And if it was a serious matter that I really took seriously I would remember it, I think. It might have been some incidental thing that I really didn't believe and just passed it along."

WSJ 8-16-82

How Dallas Reporter's Hot Story Won a Pink Slip Instead of a Prize

By NEIL MAXWELL
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

DALLAS—Here's another cautionary tale from the turbulent world of journalism.

On July 9, the Dallas Morning News published a story by reporter Earl Golz, a 13-year veteran, that said Abilene National Bank had extensive loan problems and hinted that the bank could go under, as Penn Square National Bank had done four days earlier.

It was an exclusive, more than enough to make a reporter's day.

Abilene National, which had assets of $450 million, responded with outrage. It denounced the story as grossly inaccurate and accused the newspaper of slander. Full-page ads in several newspapers showed Abilene National chairman Don Earney looking grim and sounding grimmer: "I know you can't totally escape slander if you're in the public eye, but knowing that doesn't make me any less angry now." He denied any major loan problems and later threatened the Morning News with a $190 million lawsuit.

The Paper's Response

The paper's editors responded with chagrin and dispatch. On July 29, they fired Mr. Golz and got Wayne Epperson, the editor who handled the story, to resign. The Morning News ran a rebuttal of Mr. Golz's story, using information supplied by Abilene National.

Less than two weeks later, the bank went under, becoming, after Penn Square, the year's second-largest commercial bank failure. A source close to the bank says federal examiners found loan losses that wiped out the bank's net worth of $30 million. Mr. Earney was fired, and the bank was merged into the Mercantile Texas Corp., a Dallas-based holding company.

The turn of events hasn't reversed the fortunes of Messrs. Golz and Epperson. Ralph Langer, the managing editor who fired Mr. Golz, says, "His situation was not in any way affected by the bank going under or not going under."

Errors in the Story

Mr. Golz concedes his story had errors. He described the location of another bank incorrectly. He gave an old figure, $160 million, as the bank's total letters of credit, which were $54 million when the story appeared. And he erroneously said Abilene National had sold loans worth a tremendous amount to Continental Illinois Bank, but none was outstanding at the time of the story.

He sees the affair as leaving his former employer in a no-win situation: "They would have egg on their face if they took us back, and they face some embarrassment if they don't."

But the whole thing is academic to Mr. Golz. Even if they offered him his old job, he says, "I can't conceive of ever going back there."

Oswald 'definitely' was informant

ACCORDING TO A memo DeLoach wrote to another Hoover aide, Jenkins told DeLoach on April 29, 1964, that a friend whom Jenkins refused to identify had talked to the Dallas FBI agent who said he "assisted in the investigation of the Oswald case and that Oswald, prior to his murder, was definitely an FBI informant.

"The 'agent' stated that FBI files in Washington would prove this fact," DeLoach's memo said. "I told Jenkins that while I doubted very seriously that any of our agents had furnished this fact to his 'friend,' that at the same time we, of course, would make a check and find out if the description given this 'agent' fitted any of our people."

A second memo, dated May 4, 1964, was written by William A. Branigan, the FBI official in charge of the Oswald investigation, to William C. Sullivan, FBI assistant director in charge of domestic intelligence.

BRANIGAN SAID the agent, who by then was identified, would be interviewed in Dallas "to determine if he made the statement that Oswald was definitely an FBI informant." Kyle Clark, assistant to Shanklin, was instructed in Shanklin's absence "to promptly advise of the results together with their recommendations."

Hoover's initials were written at the end of the memo under the word "expedite" in his handwriting.

Two days after the May 4 memo one of Hoover's top aides, Alan Belmont, was scheduled to testify before the Warren Commission about the Oswald-informant question.

Belmont, in charge of all FBI investigative work, identified a letter dated Feb. 6, 1964, to the commission as a letter from Hoover "stating flatly that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an informant for the FBI."

One of the commission lawyers questioning Belmont, Samuel A. Stern, told The News he was "absolutely not" told of the Jenkins report at the time and had not learned of it afterward.

EIGHT DAYS after Belmont testified, Hoover went before the Warren Commission and said he had "entire control of whether a man shall be an informant or shall not be an informant" of the FBI. He testified he "can most emphatically say that at no time was he (Oswald) ever an employee of the bureau in any capacity, either as an agent or as a special employe or as an informant."

Hoover months earlier had ordered any members of the FBI who had contact with Oswald or his case to submit affidavits stating whether they had any information he was ever an FBI informant.

Neither DeLoach, Branigan nor Clark could recall the DeLoach and Branigan memos about the Jenkins report when questioned by The News this week.

"Knowing Will Griffin, I doubt very seriously he ever made such a statement because he had better sense," DeLoach said. "And he also knew the truth that Oswald was not an informant.

"I THINK WE gave the Warren Commission everything. We gave them everything as far as I know. I don't know anything that was held back from the Warren Commission."

NOTE: Agent Griffin died of cancer 8-30-82 in Dallas. Earl Golz updates the Oswald story for Coverups!: The postscript is that a former FBI agent and friend of Griffin's told me shortly after the story ran that somehow the information that reached Walter Jenkins got garbled. He said the facts are that Griffin was referring to Ruby when he said the FBI tried to use him as an informant, not Oswald. Griffin worked informants in the entertainment and nightclub segment when he was in New Orleans, the former agent said, and would have been familiar with similar efforts to recruit Ruby in Dallas, though he wasn't the agent assigned to do it. - Earl

The first issue of Coverups! included Jim Marr's wrapup of the Charles Harrelson/Tall Tramp evidence, most of which came from 1981 issues of The Continuing Inquiry. But he also had new interviews with Gary Shaw and reporters Earl Golz and Chuck Cook. For some reason, Cook didn't tell Jim what he told Earl, at least one other DMN reporter and a third party who refused to be quoted (it's extremely unlikely Cook lied to this person): Cook did show the tramp photos to Harrelson, who supposedly said "Yes, that's me, but I didn't shoot anybody." Cook now works at a Birmingham newspaper and may be waiting for the Wood trial to end before talking to Harrelson again. Jim was unaware of this new Harrelson story from the 4-28-82 San Francisco Chronicle:

Story of Spies, Stolen Arms and Drugs

By Bill Wallace
Chronicle Correspondent

Fresno

A federal judge here began hearing testimony yesterday in a case involving spies, drug-dealers, gunrunners and a shadowy group known to its own members as "The Company."

The defendants in the case, former Air Force Master Sergeant Larry Earl Bryant and inventor Alvin Snaper, are accused of stealing specialized military equipment — some of which is classified — from the top security U.S. Naval Weapons Station at China Lake in the Mojave Desert.

Bryant was indicted on four counts of receiving embezzled property, two counts of conspiracy and one count of embezzlement. Snaper was accused of two counts of conspiracy, one count of embezzlement and one count of receiving embezzled property.

Both men have pleaded not guilty to the charges. U.S. District Judge Edward Dean Price is hearing the case without a jury, and the trial is expected to last about two weeks.

Taken from the base were nine infrared sniperscopes, a television camera for taking pictures in darkness, 1500 rounds of small arms tracer ammunition for night combat, a five-foot remote-control helicopter, and secret components from the radar unit of a Sidewinder guided missile.

Federal agents say some of the stolen equipment was going to be used to make electronic equipment for drug smugglers and some was traded to drug suppliers in Colombia for marijuana.

According to documents filed in the case, Bryant, 42, is a retired Air Force master sergeant from St. Louis, Mo., who once worked at China Lake developing devices to counter foreign radar systems. Snaper was described as an inventor from Las Vegas.

"The Company," the drug-smuggling organization to which police say Bryant and Snaper belong, apparently took its name from jargon for the CIA.

The organization reputedly has about 300 members, many of them former military men or ex-police officers, and nearly $30 million worth of assets, including planes, ships and real estate.

Federal drug agents say the organization has imported billions of dollars worth of narcotics from Latin America, and also is involved in gunrunning and mercenary operations.

Twenty-five reputed members of the group were indicted by the federal grand jury in Fresno last year on charges ranging from importing narcotics for sale to stealing classified armaments. The indictment did not name "The Company" itself, however.

Snaper and Bryant are the first defendants to stand trial on the charges in the Fresno indictment.

According to the indictment, Larry Bryant and several other men police say are associated with "The Company" took the military equipment from China Lake between January and October of 1979.

Five of the nightscopes were ultimately discovered in Snaper's garage in Las Vegas, and another one turned up when police raided a Lexington, Ky., warehouse Bradley F. Bryant had rented under a pseudonym.

Bradley Bryant is Larry Bryant's cousin and a man police say is one of the ringleaders of "The Company." He is being held in lieu of $1 million bond at a prison in Elgin, Ill., awaiting trial on federal charges of selling $250,000 worth of marijuana to undercover narcotics agents.

A sixth scope was found in the wreckage of a plane that crashed off the coast of Colombia. Authorities say the plane was on a drug-smuggling mission when it crashed.

The other three scopes disappeared entirely, as have the radar components and the remote-controlled helicopter.

There have been several recent incidents apparently connected with the case.

Last month, Andrew Carter Thornton II, one of the men who has pleaded guilty in the Fresno case, was shot two times in the chest at point-blank range by an unknown assailant as he walked out of a restaurant in Lexington, Ky.

Thornton, a former narcotics officer, survived — but only because he was wearing a bulletproof vest.

There have been no arrests in the shooting, and police say they have no suspects.

In January, Gene Berry, a state prosecutor in Charlotte Harbor, Fla., was shot to death as he answered his door. Earlier this month, police arrested Bonnie Kelly as Berry's murderer.

Kelly's husband, Wallace McClure (Mike) Kelly, is a suspected member of "The Company" who pleaded guilty in the Fresno case last month. Charlotte County Sheriff Glenn Saper said the Berry slaying, while not related to the China Lake thefts, was a "Company" assassination, accomplished with the help of the group's members.

Florida law enforcement officials say that Charles V. Harrelson, a convicted slayer indicted this month for the 1979 murder of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood in El Paso, is also a member of "The Company," and a close associate of Wallace Kelly.

Police said Jamiel (Jimmy) Chagra, a convicted drug dealer who is an indicted co-conspirator in the Wood assassination case, once hired Bradley Bryant's private security firm — staffed by reputed members of "The Company" — as a bodyguard service.

It is my present intention to arrange to have the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives, on which I sit, hold hearings on what, if any, steps should be taken to follow-up on your study—letter from Louis Stokes to Norman Ramsey February 4, 1981

BRIEFS....Former HSCA Chairman Louis Stokes, now head of the House Ethics Committee, still intends to hold hearings on the acoustics depending, of course, on Dr. Barger's response....The October issue of Robert Cutler's Grassy Knoll Gazette has a 4-page article by Dick Sprague about short tramp "Frenchy", his possible ID by Dick Billings (who edited the HSCA Final Report and co-wrote Blakey's book), and subsequent HSCA coverup; Billings' alleged anti-Castro, anti-JFK ties may well be an important new issue....Oswald's 1962 tax return has been quietly released to co-signer Marina; in addition to a $2 math error, one source says the figures match his known income, but another source, perhaps less reliable, found nearly $80 in unknown income from which no deductions had been taken....When Dr. James Weston, who gave CBS a strong Warren Commission endorsement after studying the JFK autopsy evidence in 1975, died last May, his hometown newspaper obit said he "edited the report of the pathology panel" of the HSCA; ~~is that true, and~~ what else did he provide the panel?....ABC's Hoover documentary last June not only treated the JFK case as a conspiracy, but was one of the few successful tv docs, ranked by Nielsen at #30 for the week....Several hundred CIA documents were recently declassified and one, from May 1964, confirms what we've long suspected: G. Walton Moore, who was in contact with George deMohrenschildt and others, was the CIA's man in Dallas....House Committee files are classified for 50 years unless the full House votes to release them; Mark Allen and Kevin Walsh have begun lobbying and you can help (money is not necessary) by writing ACCESS, P.O.Box 9032, Washington, D.C.20003 - DO IT NOW....Earl Golz is now press aide to Texas Congressman Bill Patman, currently on the House Banking Committee; meanwhile, Federal investigators are digging in to the Abilene bank and indictments may be possible - if so, they'll be served by Dallas Assistant U.S. Attorney and long-time friend of Henry Wade, Bill Alexander....A CBS Records subsidiary, Nemperor Records, has signed Virginia rock group Single Bullet Theory to a recording contract (does this mean they'll have 7 hits?)

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES: Oswald in San Antonio and how HSCA investigators bungled a Fort Worth interview....Oswald in Montreal - a summer '63 sighting that is still classified....More photographic support for the acoustics - Zapruder, Altgens, Bell, Bond and Paschall (note absence of Dorman!)....Paul McCaghren's index of DPD material given to the HSCA ....and, if current new-subscriber rate continues, COVERUPS! will go monthly.

Many thanks for your strong support and enthusiasm - thanks also to Jack White for his guidance and typesetting machine

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